



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY



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GOVERNOR BAKER PROCLAIMS 'EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH'

FRAMINGHAM, MA – In an effort to enhance awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness for families and individuals, Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed September to be '*Emergency Preparedness Month*' in the Commonwealth. Working with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will promote public preparedness and safety throughout the month. These efforts are in conjunction with a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to take simple steps to better prepare themselves and their families for emergencies at home, work and school.

MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz stated, "During the month of September, individuals and families are urged to take the necessary steps to build resilience, reduce casualties, and minimize the economic impact of disasters and other types of emergencies by being informed, developing a plan, building a kit, and learning how to get involved in their communities."

To help the public better prepare themselves and their families, MEMA will promote four preparedness messages during Emergency Preparedness Month: 1) Be Informed, 2) Develop a Plan, 3) Build a Kit, and 4) Get Involved. Throughout the month, MEMA will encourage all residents of the Commonwealth to learn the hazards and risks that may affect their communities, know how to receive information during an emergency from local and state emergency managers and public safety officials, build comprehensive family emergency plans, build emergency kits that are stocked with supplies that will help sustain individuals and families during disasters, and become involved in their communities and help build resilience.

Governor Baker's Proclamation states "Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every resident of the Commonwealth and families and individuals are urged to make preparedness a priority. . . All citizens of the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in citizen preparedness activities and asked to use the preparedness resources at www.mass.gov/mema to become more prepared."

The Proclamation can be located at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/2015-preparedness-month-proclamation.pdf>

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists and operations and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

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